

January 23, 2002

Renata Hesse, Esq.
Trial Attorney
Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion regarding the anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft.

I was elected to the Kansas State House in 2000 and my experiences since that time has taught me that the actions of government can often have negative effects on the average American. I think this holds true in the government's case against Microsoft.

State Representative

MARY PILCHER COOK

District 18

13910 W 58th Place

Shawnee, KS

66216

There is no doubt that this pursuit of Microsoft has negatively affected our economic health. At a time when many states are facing major budget problems, they have also been spending taxpayers' money to finance this case. In fact, here in Kansas, our budget problems are so bad that some members of the Legislature are supporting an increase in taxes. At the same time, our Attorney General sees fit to continue wasting tax money on this case that the public clearly wants to see brought to an end.

When we look back at the fall of the technology industry and the markets overall, we should not be surprised. Our government was determined to use the courts to break up one of the world's largest companies. Of course the markets are going to feel the effects of this. Of course investors are going to wait on the sidelines. Of course struggling technology companies will declare bankruptcy. And of course the American worker and consumer will feel the pinch.

The settlement currently under consideration addresses this matter fully and fairly. It represents a true compromise. Allowing the proposed settlement to go through is the right thing to do legally. It is also the right thing to do in order to help revitalize our economy and restore faith in the capitalist system we all appreciate.

Thank you.



Rep. Mary Pilcher Cook